

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4721

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, RO, RP, JA, HK, US
SUBJ: TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS - STATUS REPORT

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF RESULTS OF AND OUTLOOK FOR ACTIVITIES
OF TEXTILE DELEGATION PRESENTLY IN GENEVA:

A. MFA. THE PROBABILITY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AGREEING
ON A MANDATE FOR RENEWAL OF THE MULTIFIBER ARRANGEMENT REMAINS
UNCERTAIN, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF REPORTED ESTABLISHMENT BY
FRENCH ASSEMBLY OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE SIT-
UATION OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL INDUSTRY IN FRANCE. COMMITTEE
IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LIFE OF 4 MONTHS, POSSIBLE GIVING FRENCH
AN EXCUSE TO DELAY FINAL EC DECISION ON MFA MANDATE UNTIL
SEPTEMBER. SUCH A DELAY CAN ONLY INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE
ALREADY RESTIVE DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO CONTEST ANY
COMMUNITY PROPOSALS AND TO SEEK CHANGES WHICH WOULD FAVOR THE
DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, IF U.S.-HONG KONG
NEGOTIATIONS, ASSESSED BELOW, CAN BE BROUGHT TO SUCCESSFUL
CONCLUSION MEETING USG GOALS, FRENCH (AND BRITISH) ARGU-
MENTS IN FAVOR OF MORE RESTRICTIVE CHANGES IN MFA WOULD
BE LARGELY VITIATED.

B. HONG KONG. AFTER SLOW AND RATHER BUMPY BEGINNING IN
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LYON, PACE OF NEGOTIATION OF NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO
BEGIN JAN 1, 1978 HAS APPRECIABLY QUICKENED AND SUBSTAN-
TIVE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. TEAM INTENDS TO CONTINUE
INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA DURING JUNE 12-17. U.S.
TEAM HAS PRESSED FOR SELECTIVELY LOWER GROWTH AND
FLEXIBILITY FOR MOST SENSITIVE CATEGORIES AND TIGHTER
CONTROL ON HK EXPORTS.

C. CONSULTATIONS WITH HONG KONG ON CATEGORIES CALLED DURING 1977. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON LEVEL OF CATEGORY 225 (M-MF BRASSIERES) SHIPMENTS, BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO AGREE ON LEVELS FOR CATS. 39 (WORK GLOVES) OR 120 (WOOL SUITS). WE HAVE INDICATED TO TSAO DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL AGREEMENT THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT SPECIFIC LIMIT OF 82,500 UNITS FOR WOOL SUITS (WITH NORMAL WOOL CATEGORY GROWTH) AND 3 MILLION DOZEN PAIRS WORK GLOVES (WITH LOWER THAN NORMAL GROWTH). SUPPORTING STATISTICS ON ADDITIONAL FIVE CALLED CATEGORIES WERE GIVEN TO HERMANN WHILE IN LYON AND IT WAS AGREED THAT CONSULTATIONS ON THESE FIVE CATEGORIES PLUS 39 AND 120 SHOULD CONTINUE IN WASHINGTON.

D. ROMANIA. WE HAVE AGREED AD REFERENDUM WITH ROMANIAN DELEGATION ON TEXT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC NOTES OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT COVERING WOOL AND MAN-MADE FIBER TEXTILES. NO ADDITIONAL YARDAGE IN WOOL OR M-MF SUITS OR M-MF SWEATERS (CATS. 120, 221, 237) WAS PERMITTED BUT LANGUAGE WAS ADDED AT END OF PARA 3(E) OF DRAFT AGREEMENT TO EFFECT THAT IF ROMANIA WISHED TO USE ADDITIONAL YARDAGE IN THESE CATEGORIES IT WOULD CONSULT WITH U.S. AND YARDAGE WOULD NOT BE USED WITHOUT U.S. CONCURRENCE. WE HAVE ALSO AGREED TO DCL'S FOR CATEGORIES COVERED IN PARA 2 OF DRAFT AGREEMENT, ADDED CAT. 210 AS DCL WITH 1.5 MILLION SYE LEVEL, AND PROVIDED THEM ASSURANCES THAT U.S. DID NOT INTEND TO IMPAIR THEIR USE OF AGREED LEVELS AS RESULT OF CATEGORY CONFIDENTIAL

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SOLIDATION.

3. PHILIPPINES. WE HAVE INITIALED MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH PHILIPPINES, EXTENDING PRESENT AGREEMENT TO DEC. 31, 1977, MERGING CATS. 41/42/4362 PT, 49/63 PT. AND 50/51 FOR THE PRESENT YEAR, PERMITTING UNLIMITED SHIFT OF UNITS FROM CAT. 237 INTO 229 FOR THE PRESENT YEAR, AND EXEMPTING CERTAIN HANDPLIED OR BRAIDED, HANDMADE MACRAME HANDICRAFT NON-APPAREL PRODUCTS.

F. TEAM WILL MEET WITH JAPANESE (SAKAI AND MOTOMURA) ON JUNE 13 AND 14 TO DISCUSS CALLED CATEGORIES 39 AND 43, IMPRESSION FABRIC (CAT. 210) AND THROWN SILK YARN. CONSULTATIONS WITH MEXICAN DEL, HEADED BY GARRIDO, ARE SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON OF JUNE 15 AND ALL DAY JUNE 16 (IF NECESSARY). MEETINGS WITH HONG KONG WILL BE SCHEDULED AS NEEDED.
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